

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 4-11, 13 and 15-23 are pending in the present application. No claims are amended by the present amendment. Thus, no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1, 4-9, 11 and 15-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Iwata (U.S. Patent No. 6,697,847) in view of Itoh et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,330,611, herein "Itoh"); Claims 2, 13 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Iwata in view of Itoh and Washino (U.S. Patent No. 5,537,157); and Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Iwata in view of Itoh and Kimura (U.S. Patent No. 6,226,097).

Addressing now the rejection of Claims 1, 4-9, 11 and 15-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Iwata and Itoh, Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 1 recites,

An image forming apparatus that includes service modules for performing system side processes on image formation, wherein applications can be added to the image forming apparatus separately from the service modules, the image forming apparatus comprising:

an application launch part configured to access launch selection information, the launch selection information indicating at least a location of an auxiliary storage device that stores one or more applications, and configured to launch the one or more applications from the auxiliary storage device according to the accessed launch selection information; and

a part configured to display a setting screen that sets the launch selection information on a display part of the image forming apparatus, and configured to store information input from the setting screen as the launch selection information,

wherein the service modules are stored in a memory distinct from the auxiliary storage device.

Claim 22 recites similar features and Claim 23 recites at least the above noted features.

Iwata describes an information processing system such as a copier which includes a copy module, a facsimile module and a printer module. Further, Iwata describes in Figures 46-48 and corresponding disclosure that “printer software” can be downloaded to a printer Pr from a server Sv via a computer C in response to a request by the computer C.

However, Iwata does not describe or suggest an application launch part configured to access launch selection information, the launch selection information indicating at least a location of an auxiliary storage device that stores one or more applications, and configured to launch the one or more applications from the auxiliary storage device according to the accessed launch selection information, as is recited in Claim 1.

The outstanding Action asserts on page 4 that the “agent” of Figures 44 and 47 of Iwata corresponds to the above noted “application launch part” recited in Claim 1, Applicants respectfully traverse this assertion.

Specifically, the “agent” of Figures 44 and 47 merely enables the printer to download software from the server (asserted as corresponding to the auxiliary storage device). Nothing in Iwata describes or suggests *launching the one or more applications from the auxiliary storage device* according to the accessed launch selection information.

In other words, in Iwata the “printer software” is not launched from the server, instead it is merely sent from the server to the printer where the software is launched from a local storage.

In addition, as is acknowledged on page 5, Iwata does not describe or suggest a part configured to display a setting screen that sets the launch selection information on a display part of the image forming apparatus, and configured to store information input from the setting screen as the launch selection information, the launch selection information indicating at least a location of an auxiliary storage device that stores one or more applications.

Nevertheless, the outstanding Action cites Itoh as curing the deficiencies of Iwata with regard to the claimed invention.

Itoh describes a device that retrieves data on a network and updates data on another network resource. Further, Itoh describes that a client (CURL1) can select a server (SURL 1) from a list of servers from which to receive updates.

However, Itoh does not describe or suggest an application launch part configured to launch the one or more applications from the auxiliary storage device according to the accessed launch selection information, as is recited in Claim 1.

Furthermore, Itoh does not describe or suggest a part configured to display a setting screen that sets the launch selection information on a display part of the image forming apparatus, and configured to store information input from the setting screen as the launch selection information, the launch selection information indicating at least a location of an auxiliary storage device that stores one or more applications.

Specifically, the outstanding Action cites the server selection illustrated in Figures 13A of Itoh as corresponding to the claimed setting screen that sets the launch selection information. However, Applicants respectfully traverse this assertion and submit that the screen that enables selection of the newspaper servers SURL 1-3 cannot correspond to the claimed setting screen as the newspaper servers of Itoh even in combination with Iwata do not correspond to auxiliary storage devices from which one or more applications are *launched*.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1, and similarly Claims 22, and claims depending respectfully therefrom, patentably distinguish over Iwata and Itoh considered individually or in any combination.

Furthermore, with regard to Claim 23, Applicants respectfully submit that this claim patentably distinguishes over Iwata, Itoh and Washino considered individually or in

combination for reasons in addition to the reasons noted above with regard to Claim 1 (which also apply to Claim 23).

Specifically, Claim 23 recites, in part,

an application launch part configured to access launch selection information, the launch selection information indicating at least a location of an auxiliary storage device that stores one or more applications, and configured to launch the one or more applications from the auxiliary storage device according to the accessed launch selection information, the auxiliary storage device corresponding to a recording medium removable from the image forming apparatus without disassembling any other portion of the image forming apparatus;

The outstanding Action asserts on pages 12-13 that the Agent and particularly the downloading of software from a server in Iwata is equivalent to launching the one or more applications from the auxiliary storage device according to the accessed launch selection information as recited in Claim 23. However, Applicants note that Claim 23 specifically recites that the auxiliary storage device corresponds to a recording medium removable from the image forming apparatus without disassembling any other portion of the image forming apparatus.

The outstanding Action cites Washino as describing that a recording medium can be removable from an image forming apparatus with disassembling the image forming apparatus. However, the combination of Iwata and Washino still does not describe or suggest the claimed features as neither of these references describes launching the one or more applications from a recording medium removable from the image forming apparatus without disassembling any other portion of the image forming apparatus. As is noted above, the outstanding Action asserts that the auxiliary storage device corresponds to the server of Iwata, thus even if the printer of Iwata were to be modified to include a recording medium removable from the image forming apparatus without disassembling any other portion of the image forming apparatus, the features of the claimed invention would not be disclosed as the

claimed invention recites that the one or more applications are launched from the recording medium removable from the image forming apparatus without disassembling any other portion of the image forming apparatus. This feature is not disclosed in the combination of Iwata, Itoh and Washino.

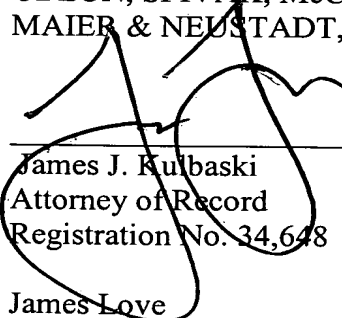
Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 23, and claims depending therefrom, also patentably distinguishes over the cited references.

Consequently, for the reasons discussed above, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance for Claims 1, 2, 4-11, 13 and 15-23 is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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